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UNTRUTHFUL ATTACKS ON THE CIA

Mr. LAUSCHE. Mr. President, earlier today, the Senator from Missouri [Mr. SYMINGTON] made a statement dealing with attacks that are now currently being made upon the Central Intelligence Agency.

He stated:

A favorite "sport" now current among various groups which appears to be growing in volume is to attack the Central Intelligence Agency.

He further stated:

These charges are made by many people, including enemy aliens in defense of their activities, and those who have been charged with illegal activities. From the standpoint of sport, at times it would appear comparable to shooting fish in a barrel, because the nature of the work of the CIA means it cannot defend itself.

Mr. President, I want to use this statement of the Senator from Missouri as a premise for what I shall now have to say. I concur with him completely that because the CIA cannot defend itself and of necessity, by reason of its work, must remain silent, inducement has been provided by those who bear ill will toward certain individuals in the Agency to make attacks upon it.

The most recent attacks have dealt with the cases of James R. Christensen, with a Cuban exile, who was captured in Cuba and charged by Castro with having been hired by the Central Intelligence Agency to assassinate Castro, and in the third case, in relation to John R. Hawke. These attacks have been made with great bitterness. The Central Intelligence Agency has not been able to answer.

The claims that have been made against the agency are false.

I take the floor today to emphasize the fact that the interests of the United States are not being served by the attacks which are being made upon this Agency.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of the Senator from Ohio has expired.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the able Senator from Ohio be allowed to proceed for 5 additional minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUSCHE. The office of the Central Intelligence Agency is headed by Adm. W. F. Raborn. His assistant is Richard Helms. He has a legislative counsel and the staff of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The important aspect of the services rendered by this Agency, which are not being considered by those within our own ranks who are attacking the Agency, is the fact that the Agency works directly under the President. The Agency is subject to the supervision and direction of the National Security Council.

Who are the members of the National Security Council?

Lyndon B. Johnson, the President of the United States. Hubert H. Humphrey, the Vice President. Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State. Robert S. McNamara, the Secretary of Defense. Buford Ellington, the Director of the Office of Emergency Planning. Then there is the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, McGeorge Bundy, and Executive Secretary Bromley Smith.

Mr. President, I submit to all Senators that whatever attacks are being made upon that Agency are an implied attack upon the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chief of Emergency Planning.

For the past 20 years especially, it has been the objective of the Communists in the cold war to blacken the character of the Intelligence Agency of the United States. One of their principal techniques has been to lay at the doorstep of the Intelligence Agency the charges that it is indulging in practices common and inherent to the Communists of the world.

With the Communists making the attacks, when support is given to those attacks by men on the Senate floor and by persons in our own Nation, it provides a great instrumentality for the Communists to publicize throughout the world that, within the Chambers of the U.S. Senate, these remarks have been made by officials of the U.S. Government, condemning the activity of this Agency.

It is with great hesitancy that I enter upon the discussion of the subject that I shall now undertake. One statement was made several months ago that the Central Intelligence Agency dressed its agents in the garb of Vietcong Communists and sent them among the innocent South Vietnamese to rape women and kill old men and children, and then to place the blame on the Vietcong.

That charge was denied most emphatically.

I want to repeat that charge—that the Agency, operating under the President, Vice President, Secretary of State, and Secretary of Defense, dressed its agents in the uniform of the Vietcong Communists and that they raped women and killed old men and children, solely to place the blame on the Vietcong.

When that statement was made, naturally Peking and Moscow picked it up and publicized it throughout all the world. Peking and Moscow quoted what was said, and stated:

United States official confirms the charges we have been making about the activities of the agents of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. President, I think the time has come to quit blackening the character of the United States and whitening that of the Communists, unless it can be established and proved that the charges we are making are true. Tragically, that is not the situation now.

The attacks are frequent. The attacks have been in some instances denied and labeled as false. But they still go on.

I cannot bring myself to believe for one moment that the members of the National Security Council would tolerate for one second the retention of Admiral Raborn and his assistants if there were one semblance of truth to the indictment that has been heaped upon them.

I have remained silent on this issue. I have said nothing about it. But I have seethed with agony and indignation in the knowledge of what has been going on. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of the Senator from Ohio has expired.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Ohio may proceed for 3 additional minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUSCHE. I join fully and wholeheartedly in the statement made by the senior Senator from Missouri [Mr. SYMINGTON] this morning.

My hopes are that the people of the United States will understand what a well-organized technique has been adopted by the Communists to discredit the Central Intelligence Agency and how unfortunate we are that additional strength has been given to that attack by the conduct and words of officials of the U.S. Government.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SYMINGTON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. LAUSCHE. I yield to the Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SYMINGTON. I thank the able senior Senator from Ohio for commenting on the remarks I made this morning.

The thrust of my statement was that before such charges are given such wide and continued publicity, a reasonable effort should be made to have them checked.

I was interested in what the distinguished Senator said about reactions of the foreign press to such charges made in this country.

I have recently read about 100 press stories, articles, and comments from the foreign press, free world and Iron Curtain countries, about recent articles concerning the structure and functioning of the CIA. The distortion of those articles in their presentation by the foreign press, in most cases out of context, furnishes a sad story for those to read who are interested in the security and prosperity of the United States.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Mr. President, may I have 2 additional minutes, by unanimous consent?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUSCHE. Mr. President, my discussion this morning will be about the irresponsibility of making statements. One which was quoted, relating to the charge that Central Intelligence agents raped women and killed innocent men and women, was later repudiated and recalled by the person who had made it. But the damage was done.

On my desk I have a copy of a press release out of Moscow, sent throughout the world, stating that the statement was made by a public official of the United States that the atrocities I have just described were being perpetrated by agents of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

There is irresponsibility in the making of such statements. How damaging they can be, and how widely they are used by the Communists, is not fully comprehended. All the world knows that when a condemnation is made about this country, it is used by the Communists. Yet we continue to hear Americans repeating these charges announced and made against the Central Intelligence Agency.

MORI/CDF